

Newsletter

St. Mary's Cemetery, Dunkirk, N.Y.

May 8, 2009

Number 17

Dear Friend of St. Mary's Cemetery,

Early in the 1850's the pastor and parishioners of the fledgling St. Mary's Church decided that they needed a cemetery for their new parish. Land was purchased on Bennett Rd. and the first burial took place in August 1851. Eventually we acquired an adjacent "Potter's Field", originally designated for the poor and destitute. This consecrated land continues to point to our common belief in the resurrection of the body and serves as a focal point for families who hand their deceased loved ones over to God's embrace.

With this edition of the newsletter we again hope to keep you posted on news items concerning cemetery expenditures, our hopes for the new summer season and information about burials and mausoleum or columbarium space.

We invite you visit St. Mary's Cemetery on the occasion of the annual Memorial Day Mass that begins at 9 a.m. on May 25. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR. The Mass will be offered especially for all those interred during the past year. In the event of inclement weather, the mass will be celebrated in the parish church.

Please consider a \$50 gift to the annual Cemetery Maintenance Fund. A return envelope is enclosed. Your donation will help to ensure that the resting places of your loved ones are well kept. If you cannot afford a fifty dollar donation, please give whatever you can. Keep in mind that your gift, or perhaps even a mention in your will, can assist in providing present and future care of our burial grounds.

Remember to mark Memorial Day, May 25, at 9:00 a.m. on your calendar.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Dennis Riter

Pastor

ANNUAL REPORT FROM OUR CEMETERY COMMITTEE

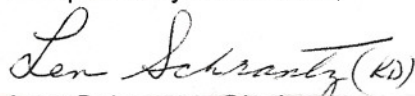
For the second year in a row we had no major equipment purchases. We did spend **\$1,700.00** for repairs to our Dump Truck and **\$500.00** maintenance and repairs to our mowers and other equipment.

- As stated in last years report we agreed to rent a dumpster at a cost of \$72.00 per month. Unsightly rubbish (Glass, cans, plastic & paper products) are now sorted and placed in the dumpster.
- After 3 years of planning we finally purchased data base software for our cemetery records. The cost totaled **\$798.00**.
- Typical expenses such as top soil and grass seed totaled **\$860.00**.
- General supplies for the maintenance building, office and chapel totaled **\$2,734.00**.
- Gasoline for the dump truck, back-hoe, mowers and weed wackers totaled **\$2,476.00**.
- The final payments on our recently constructed Pieta Mausoleum & Holy Spirit Columbarium were made at a cost of **\$49,738.00**.
- Concrete sidewalks and landscaping around the Mausoleum and Columbarium were completed at a cost of **\$6,015.00**.

At a recent cemetery Committee meeting we agreed to hire 3 people to assist the Cemetery manager with the summer work. At least two of the summer help will be college students and one adult. With reliable help we hope to improve on vastly improving the appearance of the Cemetery.

Each year we ask you to consider a **\$50.00** gift to our Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Your generosity assures the present and lasting care of St. Mary's Cemetery. Please give whatever you can afford. We appreciate and need your financial support.

Respectfully submitted,



Len Schrantz, Chairman
St. Mary's Cemetery Committee

Memorial Day Mass

May 25, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.

**Between the Shrine of the Unborn and the Holy Cross
Columbarium at St. Mary's Cemetery**

**(In case of rain Mass will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
328 Washington Ave., Dunkirk, New York)**